

2018 Affiliate's Report for Tradition Keepers: Black Storytellers of WNY

Hotep and blessings,

Tradition Keepers welcomed Fall 2017 by reconvening after a short summer hiatus and sharing “summer stories” with one another. In addition to monthly workshops and business meetings, our TK fall activities included:

- Nash House Museum performances for Smithsonian Museum Day
- Children’s Storytelling Hour at the Frank E. Merriweather Library
- Tellabration performance at Trinity United Methodist Church

Winter 2017 was greeted by Tradition Keepers with beneficial monthly workshops and business meetings. Our heartwarming winter events included:

- WUFO Radio Christmas presentation
- Ensemble performance for Buffalo’s Kwanzaa Celebration
- Albright Knox Art Gallery performance
- Children’s Storytelling Hour at the Frank E. Merriweather Library
- Successful Paint Party Fundraiser
- Nash House Museum historical performances
- African-American Read-in at Stanley Makowski Elementary School
- African-American Read-in at Frank E. Merriweather Library
- Maya Angelou ensemble performance for Zion Dominion’s Book Club

Tradition Keepers happily embraced Spring 2018 by presenting interesting workshops and conducting more business meetings. Our main highlight included:

- “Tell Me a Story” (10)—our annual community event that includes free storytelling workshops for children & adults and a storytelling concert at the Frank E. Merriweather Library. Dylan Pritchett was our featured storyteller!

Summer 2018 was saluted by Tradition Keepers with two business meetings which included a wrap up for the 2017-2018 season. In addition, our fantastic summer activities included:

- Presentation for “Raising Queens” - potential youth component members
- “Git on da Bus”- annual Pre-Juneteenth storytelling crawl
- Annual Summer gathering at MLK Park where TK members and potential youth members focused on fellowshipping, sharing fun stories, consuming fantastic food!

As we have just begun the new 2018-2019 season, we look forward to increasing our membership, creating more community partnerships, solidifying our youth component, establishing our 501-C3 status, participating in innovative storytelling projects and increasing our finances.

Throughout the seasons, we have delightfully indulged in sharing our stories in the tradition; the African oral tradition. Winter, spring, summer or fall...all you have to do is call, and TK'll be there. You've got storytelling friends!

Officers

Denise Chapman Acosta & Joy O'Banion, Co-Presidents

Barbara Byrd, Secretary

Marilyn Foote-Kragbe, Corresponding Secretary

Sharon Amos, Treasurer

Karima Amin, Historian

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Chapman-Acosta

Co-President of Tradition Keepers